CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of defining Business Classes for modeling a business activity comprising the steps of:

    a. representing said business activity as an interaction between one or more Business Classes;

5   b. storing in a digital electronic format said one or more Business Classes as well as the relationships existing between said one or more Business Classes; and

    c. providing a GUI whereby desired ones of said Business Classes and of said relationships may be linked to 10   thereby generate computer code.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein entering into a computer said Business Classes comprises the steps of:

    a. entering Business Attributes related to each of said one or more Business Classes;

5   b. defining Business Processes related to each of said one or more Business Classes; and

    c. entering Business Rules associated with one or more Business Attributes.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein defining Business Processes comprises the additional steps of :

    a. defining one or more Business States indicative of the status of a Business Class; and

5   b. defining one or more Business Methods to logically define the steps required to move a Business Class between one or more Business States.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein entering said Business Classes

comprises the additional step of defining messages whereby each of said Business Classes may interact with each of said other Business Classes or code external to each of said other

5   Business Classes.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein entering said Business Classes comprises the additional step of defining one or more web pages associated with each of said one or more Business Classes.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein entering into a computer said Business Classes comprises the additional step of diagramming the relationship between a plurality of Business Classes using a graphical user interface (GUI).

7.   The method of claim 6 wherein diagramming the relationships between said plurality of Business Classes comprises the steps of:

a.   selecting an icon from an object palette to represent

5   one of said plurality of Business Classes;

b.   dragging and dumping said icon upon a user desktop in a desired location;

c.   repeating steps a and b; and

d.   defining the relationships between each of said

10   plurality of Business Classes represented by said icons.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein defining the relationships between each of said plurality of Business Classes represented by said icons comprises the additional steps of:

a.   selecting a first one of said icons;

5   b.   selecting a second one of said icons; and

    c. specifying the nature of the relationship between said first and said second icons.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein specifying the nature of the relationship between said first and said second icons comprises the additional step of selecting an icon from a relationship palette.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein defining Business Processes related to each of said one or more Business Classes comprises the additional step of diagramming Business States and Business Methods.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein defining one or more of said Business States and Business Methods is performed through a GUI.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein defining one or more of said Business States and Business Methods comprises the additional steps of:

    a. selecting a business state icon from an object palette;

    b. dragging and dropping one or more of said business state icons upon a user desktop;

    c. selecting a business method icon from an object palette; and

    d. dragging and dropping one or more of said business method icons between two of said business state icons.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said Business Classes are stored in a repository.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein each Business Attribute is

selected from the set consisting in part of R, M, S, B, and E.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein a first subset of information defining said Business Classes is accessed in a text based format.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein a second subset of information defining said Business Classes is accessed in a GUI format.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein Business Attributes are automatically generated and stored in a repository.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein Business Methods are automatically generated and stored in a repository.